MADROÑO, Vol. 63, No. 4, p. 371, 2016

# PRESIDENT'S REPORT FOR VOLUME 63

Dear Colleagues,

Another year has passed and the California Botanical Society has made some significant progress. As you probably already know, the Society started a new Student Research Grant in 2016, named in honor of Paul Silva who donated the initiating funds in his will. We presented one award in 2016, but the council plans to increase the number of awards in coming years. A notable feature of our new grant is the eligibility of undergraduate students in addition to graduate students. Look for a call for proposals soon. The Society will do everything within its means to increase support for student botanical research.

Speaking of students, the Annual Banquet of the Society and the biennial Graduate Student Meeting will take place in April 2017 at the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden. The exact date will be announced soon. Taking place every other year, the Graduate Student Meeting is one of the most important events sponsored by the Society. Remind students of this event now. We strongly encourage graduate students to submit an abstract and share their research projects with all of us. The previous meeting, which took place at Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden, was a great success and we anticipate that the upcoming meeting will be equally enjoyable. The annual banquet will follow the student meetings at the Garden. Last year's banquet in Bakersfield was a success even with the unusual rain, and Phil Rundel's talk was the special gift of the evening. We look forward to visiting with old friends and meeting new ones in Santa Barbara.

A few other updates. As in previous years, the Society is sponsoring the mixer for the Northern California Botanists symposium in Chico. This is a good way to meet up and socialize before our annual banquet. We look forward to seeing you there. Our newsletter, *Nemophila*, is thriving and stimulating interest in botany and botanists thanks to the continuing efforts of our past-president Tom Parker. We encourage you to submit interesting material for the newsletter. Finally, *Madroño* continues to be on time thanks to the efforts of our editor, Matt Ritter, and continues to be the best outlet for botanical research in Western North America.

Finally, even though *Madroño* is now available online through BioOne, societies are really about the membership and getting together to share ideas. Encourage botanists that you know to join the Society, especially students, and participate in the annual meetings.

Thank you for your continued support.
Mark Brunell, October 2016